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**General Grant, Judge William H. Green and
N. B. Thistlewood, of Cairo, Illinois.**

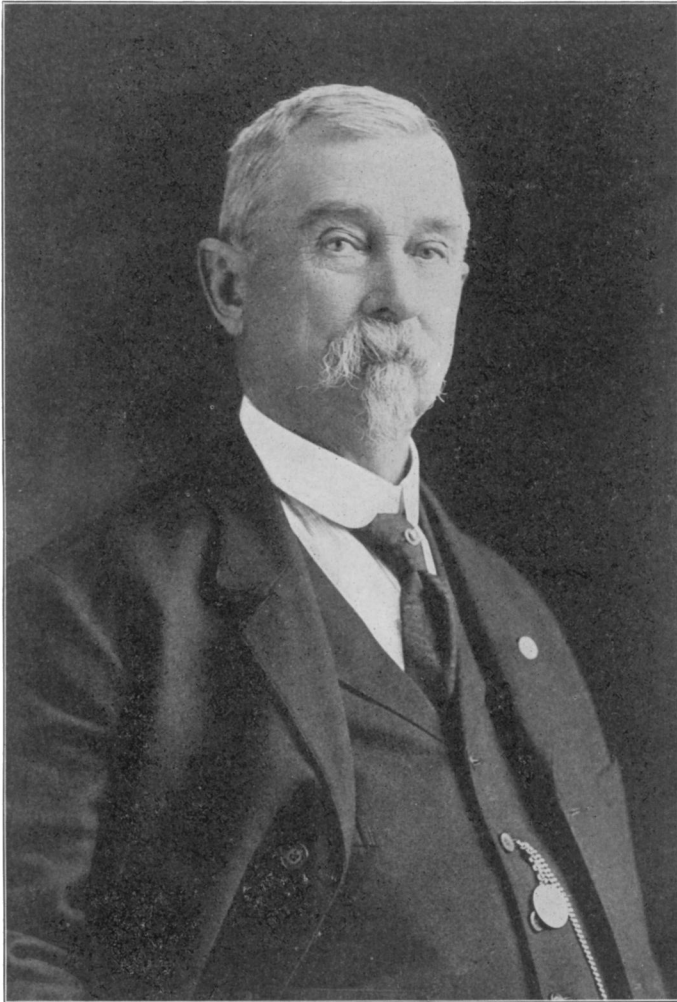
By John M. Lansden.

Upon General Grant's return from his trip around the world, he landed at San Francisco, and coming east by Panama and Galveston, and thence through Texas, Arkansas and Missouri, he reached Cairo early in the afternoon of April 16, 1880. His coming had been extensively advertised, and thousands of people from the surrounding country came to Cairo to join in the reception to be given him. With him were Mrs. Grant and one or two other ladies and two or three gentlemen who had attended him on his long journey. General Logan and many other prominent men from different parts of the country also came to welcome him; for to many of them Cairo had been their point of departure southward at the opening of the Civil War. The buildings, public and private, were appropriately decorated and in the evening there were fireworks and illuminations. In a few words, the public authorities and the citizens, without distinction of party, did everything within their power to render the occasion worthy of their distinguished guest. The General and Mrs. Grant were entertained by the family of Mr. Charles Galigher, one of the most prominent families of the city. In the evening there was a large reception and ball at the St. Charles Hotel—now the Halliday—and on that occasion a great number of persons were presented to General and Mrs. Grant.

The public reception took place at the small park on Washington Avenue, between Ninth and Tenth Streets. Mayor N. B. Thistlewood delivered the address of welcome and Judge William H. Green the more formal reception address, and to these addresses General Grant made the response hereinafter given.



ULYSSES S. GRANT.



Capt. N. B. THISTLEWOOD.

But to General Grant his Cairo reception was interesting chiefly because of the memories it called to mind. His early military career may be said to have begun at Cairo. Just before he came the headquarters or post of the military district of Southeast Missouri had been established at Cairo. He succeeded General Oglesby at Cairo September 4, 1861, and remained here in charge until April, 1862. He fought the battles of Belmont, Fort Henry, Fort Donelson and Pittsburg Landing, and thereby succeeded in pushing the Confederate forces far back into the South. He thus started the movement which opened the Mississippi River from Cairo to the Gulf. As Judge Green pictured the scenes of his early military career, it seemed to the writer, who was present on the stand, that General Grant was deeply impressed with the vivid portrayal. It was a long, weary journey from Cairo to Appomattox. It was three years of deep anxiety and severest toil, and almost every step had to be won and held at the risk of ultimate defeat. With the exception only of the President at Washington, General Grant carried the heaviest burden of the many heavy ones carried during the Civil War.

Mayor N. B. Thistlewood delivered the following address of welcome:

"General Grant: As mayor of the city of Cairo, I have the great honor of bidding you welcome to our city. We welcome you as a distinguished citizen of our country; we welcome you as one of the greatest of military chieftains. We welcome you for the service you have rendered your country and the distinction you have conferred upon our State. We welcome you as the representative of not only the regular army, but also of the volunteer soldiery, which has produced some of the best generals and the finest armies in the world, possessing in the highest degree those great qualities, courage and endurance, perseverance and magnanimity. I feel that it would not be an extravagant assertion for me to say that the armies and the soldiers which you have commanded have ranked second to none; and when I say this, I would detract nothing from those who fought on the other

side of the line. We accord them the same great qualities. I feel that we are all one now. The great fact that we have a nation, that we are *one* nation and *one* people has been established; and now your reputation as a citizen, as a statesman and as a great general does not belong to Illinois, or to the North, but to the whole country. We have read with great pleasure and pride of the distinguished honors shown you by the people of the Old World, and none the less have we been pleased with the manner in which you have been received by our sister cities of the South, and with the magnificent receptions that have been tendered you everywhere.

"It is now eighteen years since you were here, at the junction of these great rivers, this central point in the Mississippi Valley between the North and the South. Then, you looked out on the great Southland in arms against the Union. Now, how changed; and for the change the whole people acknowledge their indebtedness to you, and will cherish your memory for ages to come. General Grant, we thank you for this visit and bid you thrice welcome to our city."

JUDGE GREEN'S ADDRESS.

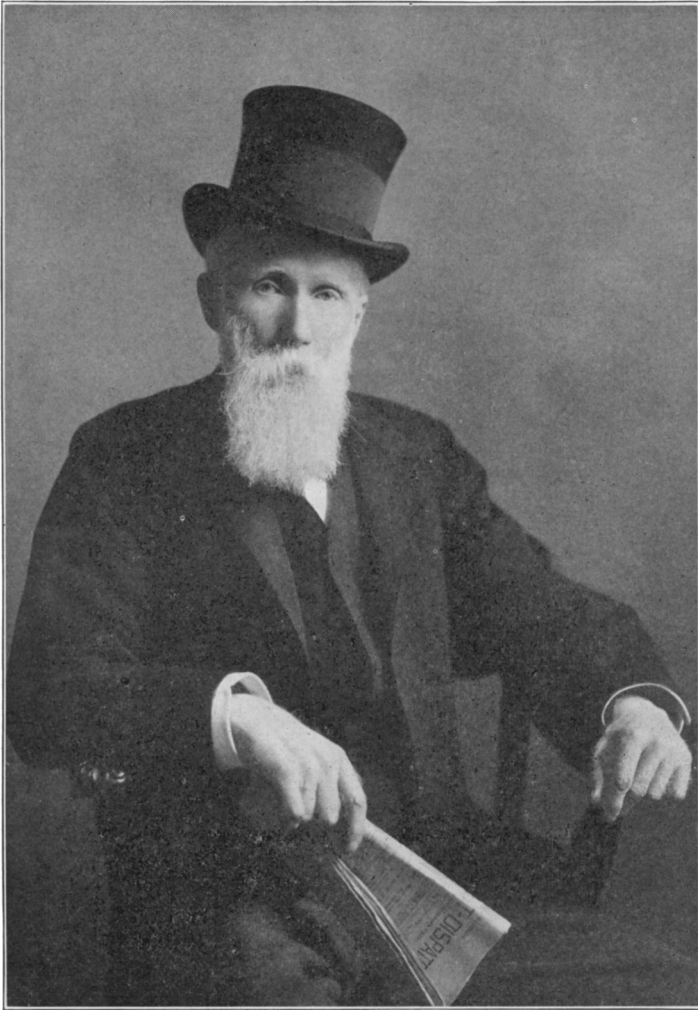
General Grant: I am commissioned by the people of Cairo to tender to you a very hearty welcome to our city and its hospitality.

We cordially join in the universal chorus of admiration and respect, which has greeted you in all lands, in all climes, among all nations, wherever you have traveled.

The crowned heads, the nobility and the people of Europe; the kings and princes of the Oriental world, and your countrymen everywhere have united in according to you the highest consideration and esteem.

In the same spirit this multitude of your fellow citizens has assembled to render a proper tribute to him who stands first in the long catalogue of veterans who fought for a united country.

But your visit to this city has an additional interest, not realized elsewhere. Your presence in our midst awakens a crowd of associations connected with the part you acted in



JUDGE WILLIAM H. GREEN.

the opening scenes of the great military drama of the nineteenth century. In Cairo you began the arduous task of converting the citizen into the soldier. Here, under your care, a crowd of raw recruits took on the form and comeliness of a well drilled army. Here you planned the first campaigns, which resulted in decisive victories to the Union arms. From this city you began your march to that series of military triumphs which is unequalled in the annals of ancient or modern military life. On three sides of you was the enemy's country. A few miles below the confluence of these great rivers a frowning fortress dominated the stream with its guns; and from its heights floated a flag which boldly proclaimed rebellion against the government. The morning drum beat in your camp was echoed by the sullen sound of the enemy's guns; and the evening tattoo was answered by the roar of hostile cannon. When your little army was marshalled on yonder levee, ready to leave us, and march to victory, it was almost literally true that—

“Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them,
Volley'd and thunder'd.”

But today, how complete the transformation! These tideless seas that almost encircle our city still pour their waters onward to the great ocean, and still bear upon their currents countless vessels of every size. But the stores of the commissary, then covering their decks, have given place to the wares of the merchant and the produce of the planter. The gunboat is converted into the grain barge. The military transport, laden with armed men and the munitions of war, is seen no more; and in its stead, the passenger steamer, crowded with peaceful men and women from every State, plies undisturbed, a welcome visitor, from the extreme North to the extreme South. The frowning fortress is dismantled; and, clad in the verdure of early Spring, it now smiles on the mighty river that washes its base, and is one of the strong links that bind together this now happy sisterhood of States.

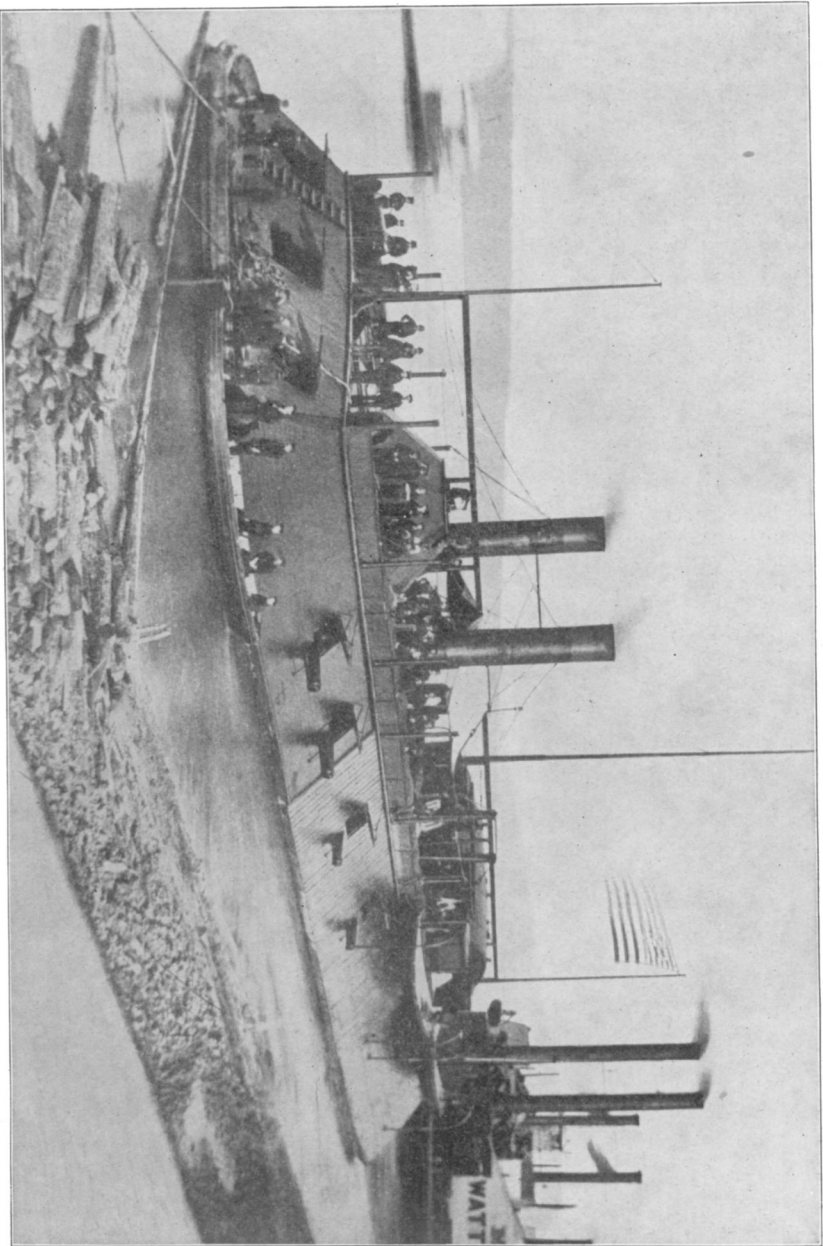
Two rival flags no longer court the morning breeze or wave over contending hosts. These then warring States are no longer belligerent, but dwell together in the harmony of perfect equality, and in the consciousness of safety and protection to their governments, both State and national; while the flag of the Union floats without a rival, over every foot of the soil of the Republic.

Sir, the verdict of mankind attributes to you, more than to any other, the accomplishment of these beneficent and auspicious results.

You left this city with your sword drawn in your country's cause. The battles you fought—the victories you won—the splendid achievements, and the still more splendid and important consequences of your campaigns, are *household words* and need not be recounted here today. You return to us with your sword long since sheathed. The object and purpose for which your sword was drawn have been accomplished. Alexander and Caesar, and Napoleon, each fought for personal aggrandizement and to establish a dynasty. You fought to preserve a united country. You bore the toil and encountered the danger of battles and of sieges in order that the grand heritage, which we received from the fathers of the republic, might be transmitted far down the ages to the coming generations. And so fighting, you fought in a holy war!

In unison with your countrymen everywhere we welcome you as an illustrious citizen of the United States. We welcome you at the threshold of this great and powerful State—the State which rendered such signal service in overthrowing the rebellion—your own State—the State of your adoption; and we also feel a just pride in greeting you as the first citizen of the State of Illinois.

Your name, in all time, will be especially connected with the idea of the union of the States. And we believe you could ask no more glorious immortality of fame than to have your memory, in all patriotic hearts, indissolubly linked with the sentiment, “the Constitution and the Union, one and inseparable, now and forever.”



GUNBOAT—THE CAIRO, 1861.

I give voice to this vast assemblage of anxious listeners when I again extend to you a most cordial welcome to our city."

GENERAL GRANT'S RESPONSE.

When last I was with you, my friends, your little city was a camp of bristling bayonets. You are now in the full enjoyment of the pursuits of peace, a thrifty, promising little city.

Of late I have traveled over a considerable bit of the South, have visited many parts of several States, and everywhere I saw the same signs of devotion to the restored Union I see here today. I met men who had held high positions in the rebel army, men who served in the Confederate congress and legislatures, and men occupying high social and official positions among their fellow citizens, and one and all of them expressed themselves satisfied with the results, and in no wise felt inclined to attempt to disturb them. I believe that these men spoke the truth, and I hope they represent the masses. I have reason for believing in their honesty, and that we have now a permanent Union and one that will last forever. Everywhere I saw due respect shown for the old Flag, and heard a willingness expressed on all sides to heartily and patriotically unite with the North in defending it against any assaults from abroad, let them come from whatever quarter they may. But I have already said more than I expected to say on this occasion, having been led thereto by the remarks of the gentlemen who have preceded me. I will now close by thanking you for your very kind reception.

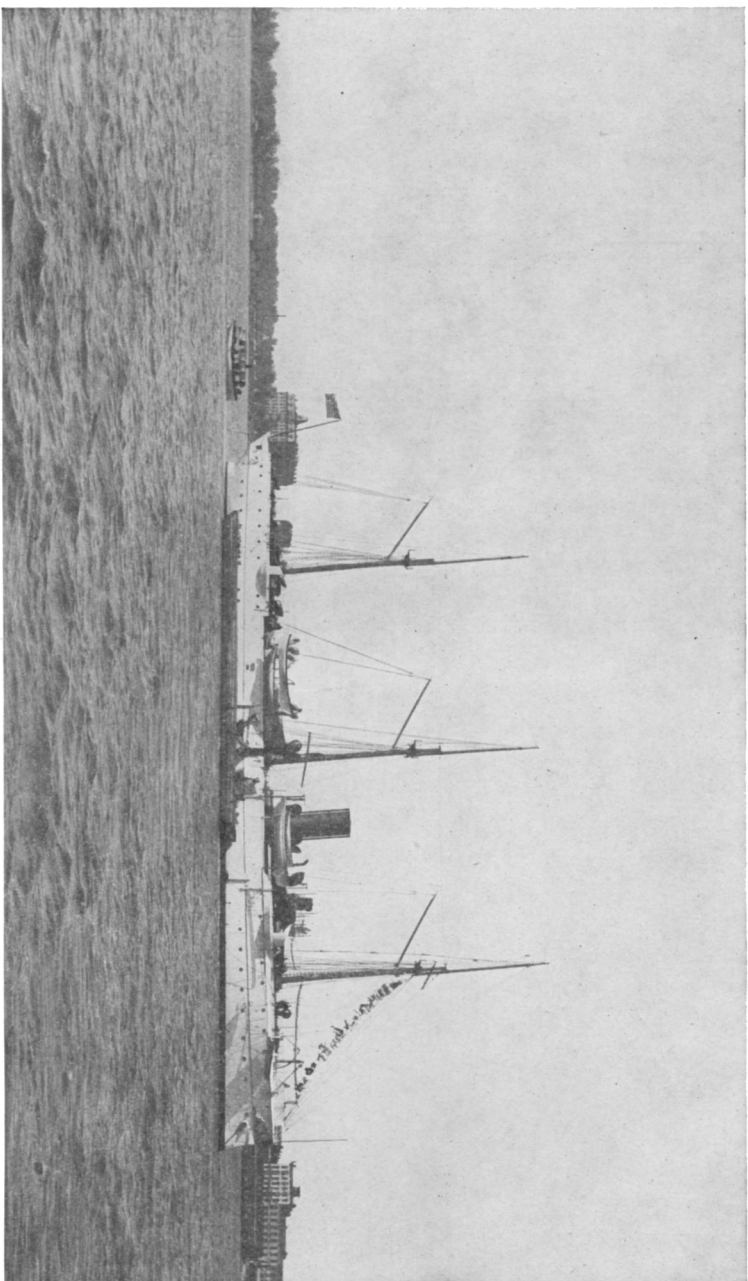
BIOGRAPHICAL.

ULYSSES S. GRANT was born at Point Pleasant, Ohio, April 27, 1822; graduated at West Point in 1843; for many years in the regular army; in the Mexican War; a farmer near St. Louis in the years 1855-57; in the real estate business in St. Louis in 1858; went to Galena in 1859, and there a clerk in his father's tannery that year and 1860; appointed colonel of the Twenty-first Regiment of Illinois Volunteers in May,

1861; Brigadier-General of Volunteers at Mexico, Missouri, in July, 1861; Major General of Volunteers at Fort Donelson, February, 1862; had his headquarters at Cairo from September, 1861, to April, 1862; appointed Major General in the regular army on the capture of Vicksburg July 4, 1863, and Lieutenant General in 1864, and General of the army in 1867; elected President in November, 1868, and re-elected in 1872. Died at Mt. McGregor, New York, July 23, 1885. Few men at home or abroad, at any time in history, have risen through so many grades and so high as this—from a clerkship in a tannery to the Presidency of the United States within less than eight years.

CAPTAIN N. B. THISTLEWOOD was born in Kent County, Delaware, March 30, 1837; came to Mason, Effingham County, Illinois, in 1858; commissioned by Governor Yates Captain of Company "C," Ninety-eighth Regiment, Illinois Infantry; in the Army of the Cumberland, in Wilder's Brigade; in the battles of Stone River, Tullahoma, Chickamauga, Farmington, Mission Ridge, and in the Atlanta campaign; was with Wilson's Cavalry Corps and was wounded at Selma, April 2, 1865; came to Cairo in 1871; elected mayor four times and served eight years; Department Commander of the Grand Army for Illinois and Commander of the Southern Illinois Soldiers and Sailors Reunion Association for many years; elected three times in succession to the National House of Representatives, at Washington, and the only soldier in the Illinois delegation. He died at Cairo September 15, 1915. He was one of Cairo's most active, faithful and honored citizens.

JUDGE WILLIAM H. GREEN was born in Danville, Kentucky, December 8, 1830; his father, the well known Dr. Duff Green; his mother, Lucy Kenton Green, a niece of the celebrated Simon Kenton; his grandfather, Willis Green, the first delegate from the Territory of Kentucky to the Legislature of Virginia; his great-grandfather, General Duff Green. The Greens were Virginians and extensive land owners in the Shenandoah Valley. He was educated at Center College, Danville, and the family having removed from Danville to Mount Vernon, Illinois, in 1847, he taught school for a time



U. S. BATTLESHIP—THE CONCORD—CAIRO HARBOR, MAY 1892.

in that vicinity and subsequently studied law with Judge Walter B. Scates, of the Supreme Court; admitted to the bar in 1852; removed to Metropolis, Illinois, in 1853; represented his district twice in the House and once in the Senate, at Springfield, in both of which bodies he was one of the most prominent and active members; came to Cairo in 1863; circuit judge of the Third circuit; for forty years a member and for many years the President of the State Board of Education; frequently a delegate to the National Democratic Conventions; one of the most prominent leaders of his party; contemporary with Samuel S. Marshall, John A. Logan, Robert G. Ingersoll, Judge David J. Baker, Judge John H. Mulkey and Judge William J. Allen; for thirty-eight years a leading attorney and counsellor for the Illinois Central Railroad Company. Judge Green was possessed of such versatility of talent that in every sphere of his activity he was always a leader. He was an able lawyer, politician and judge, and, politically, always working for others and not for himself. We may judge of his taste for literature and his ability as a writer by the fine address above given. His death occurred at his home in Cairo, June 6, 1902. Biographical sketches are found in Governor Palmer's Bench and Bar of Illinois and in the United States Biographical Dictionary.